

Attorney Docket No. 12873/04345
Amendment
• Serial No. 09/695,612
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REMARKS

Applicant requests entry of the foregoing amendment prior to the first examination on the merits of this application.

By this amendment, claims 28-37 are added, all of which read on the elected species.

The present invention generally is directed to the use of a radial compressor in an oxygen system for a patient. One typical use is in a home unit for filling portable oxygen containers with compressed, oxygen-enriched gas. As noted in the specification of the present application, the radial compressor is substantially lighter and smaller than the prior art inline compressor. In addition, the forces on the crankshaft are more uniform with a radial compressor, thus providing better balance, less vibration, etc.

Further, as noted in the specification, a balancing of forces is obtained when the fluid flow path goes from one cylinder to a cylinder on an opposite side (non-adjacent cylinders). Also, the expansion of remnant gas in one cylinder #1 helps provide power for compressing fluid in the opposite piston #2, more so than when piston #2 is adjacent. Also, there is no torquing of the entire unit about the axis, as occurs with the inline unit.

The provision of a crankshaft with only one throw (the eccentric disc containing the inner ends of the connecting rods, see Fig. 11 herein) makes the structure easier to manufacture than one with a built-up crankshaft like the prior art one shown in Fig. 8. In addition, such a device has a very short axial extent because all the pistons reciprocate in one radial plane.

Applicant believes that the claims of this application upon examination will be found to be allowable, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney at (216) 622-8578 if there are any questions.

Date

February 18, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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